

dealer, this according to Forestry Commission sources. Seven *A. iris* taken in a single day by some individual who must have disposed of every one captured on that particular day, regardless. A very well-known Professor was also recently challenged in a Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists Trust Nature Reserve for disposing of six *H. lucina* females plus six of anything else that had attractively coloured wings. These creatures are really not safe anywhere.

Why should anyone really need to take or kill more than two specimens per calendar year in any one ten kilometre square, as the Amendment to the Bill suggests, without informing the Nature Conservancy Council of the intention and reason?

In my view, this Amendment to the Bill is not enough for some species which surely need the full protection as afforded *M. arion*, if they are not to follow the same disastrous route. In particular, I refer to the Chequered Skipper (*C. palaemon*), whose populations are so small in each of its Scottish locations that collecting should be stopped immediately before it suffers the same fate in Scotland as it has done in the midland counties. The Conservation organisations seem to wait until situations deteriorate so drastically (as in the case of *M. arion*) before action and research is undertaken. If only fifteen or twenty years ago something had been done to help the plight of *arion*, could its position today have been better? Decimation of populations by collectors with pressure on well-known localities is seemingly forgotten as a non-contributory factor meaning little or nothing with the decline of *M. arion*, *C. palaemon* or the extinctions of *L. dispar*, *A. crataegi* and *C. semiargus*.

The facts are simple. Mr. Wild's such common butterflies are Britain's uncommon species of few and restricted localities, and very much in need of urgent conservation measures to preserve them as British species for future generations to enjoy, and people of my age to continue photographing and observing for years to come. As a young man, I wholeheartedly give my support to any Act of Parliament that helps in any way whatsoever the plight of British butterflies. — K. J. WILLMOTT, 34 Daybrook Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3DH.

Notes and Observations

CLOSTERA ANACHORETA D. & S. IN KENT IN 1978. — A fine male of the Scarce Chocolate-tip settled quietly on a corner of the sheet at 10.45 p.m., at Dungeness, on the 18th August. The night was warm with no wind, and the only other migrants were a small number of *Autographa gamma* L. which has been very scarce this year. Five minutes after I had boxed the *anachoreta*, a ♀ *Schoenobius gigantella* D. & S. arrived on the identical, but now hallowed spot. — E. H. WILD, 112 Foxearth Road, Selsdon, Surrey.